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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,812	02/06/2004	Andrew R. Ferlitsch	SLA1439	8259

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EXAMINER	
HAILU, TESHOME	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2139	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/773,812	FERLITSCH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Teshome Hailu	2139	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *19 May 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *05/10/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-28 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 11 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. They are directed to functional descriptive material, which consists of a computer program per se. Since a computer program by itself, (i.e., without computer readable and/or storable medium), is not a process and does not fall within the statutory classes listed in 35 U.S.C. 101. The claims are believed to recite non-statuary subject matter. The examiner has suggested that a computer hardware implementation needs to be added to the invention. The rejection of claim 20 can be overcome by deleting "for" from the preamble.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu et al (Wu), US Pub. No. 2002/0042884.

As per claims 1, 11 and 20 Wu discloses:

A method for securing an imaging job, the method comprising: performing an access control function relating to a document; (abstract, line 3-10, authenticate a document prior to being forwarded to the recipient).

Performing an auditing function relating to the document; (page 8, paragraph 189, the sensitive part is compressed and kept to reduce the download time). According to the invention, the auditing function performed to reduce content and store in secured storage.

Generating an imaging job from the document; (abstract, line 1-3, a method for printing a document using network system).

Encrypting content of the imaging job such that a downstream non-content dependent process will still properly process the imaging job; (page 2, paragraph 38, method of securing document delivery using encryption techniques).

Decrypting the encrypted content by a recipient; (page 6, paragraph 154, the recipient decrypts the key and hash using the password obtained separately to decrypt the data using the key).

Encoding into imaging output non-destructible information; (page 2, paragraph 42, add optical watermark during printing).

Erasing residual data that relates to the imaging job. (Page 8, paragraph 191, erase the sensitive part from memory immediately after printing process is completed).

As per claims 2, 12 and 21 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein the auditing function comprises providing reduced content of at least one descriptive aspect of the content and storing the reduced content in secured storage. (Page 8, paragraph 189, the sensitive part is compressed and kept to reduce the download time). According to the invention, the auditing function performed to reduce content and store in secured storage.

As per claims 3, 13 and 22 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the imaging job from a client to the recipient, and wherein the transmitting is performed in between the encrypting and the decrypting. (Page 2, paragraph 46, an encrypted form of sensitive part is sent to recipient for printing and delete upon completion of the printing job to protect the data from attacker).

As per claims 4 and 23 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein the actions are performed in the order as listed. (Page 7, paragraph 168, the printing job is placed in the queue of the spool).

As per claim 5, 14 and 24 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein the access control function determines if a user has authorization to perform a certain operation by using access control information. (Page 2, paragraph 37, authenticate the sender and the recipient using identity and at least one password).

As per claim 6, 15 and 25 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 5, wherein the access control information comprises data that is selected from the group consisting of a login identification, a department code, client device identification, recipient device identification, imaging operation, meta-data, a serial number, a network address, a digital signature and biometric data. (Page 2, paragraph 26-34, the secure document delivery and printing control may be based on a trusted document structure like digital signature, optical watermark usage control and audit trail). Further Wu disclosed, (page 2, paragraph 44, the server may communicate with the printer to verify the printer serial number and internet protocol address).

As per claims 7, 16 and 26 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein the access control function determines authorized content and causes the authorized content to be processed to create the imaging job. (Abstract, line 3-10, authenticate a document prior to being forwarded to the recipient for printing).

As per claims 8, 17 and 27 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 2, further comprising generating an audit trail and storing the audit trail information. (Page 6, paragraph 141, an audit trail is created to record the status of the entire process).

As per claim 9, 18 and 28 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein the non-destructible information encoded into the imaging output comprises tracking information. (Page 11, paragraph 276, information about printed document is kept in audit trail inside the server for predetermined time).

As per claim 10 and 19 Wu discloses:

The method of claim 9, wherein the tracking information comprises client tracking information and imaging device tracking information. (Page 11, paragraph 276, audit trail information is generated and signed by the program inside the hardware device with receiver's ID key after each copy printed, which provides non-repudiation for each printed copy). Where non-repudiation means a way of verifying content transferred from sender to recipient.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made or record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

TITLE: Printer driver log security verification for identification cards, US 6,929,413.

TITLE: Methods and apparatus for secure printing, US Pub. No. 2005/0275866.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Teshome Hailu whose telephone number is (571) 270-3159. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. PST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Teshome Hailu

December 13, 2007

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